

**Virginia HIV Community Planning Committee
Meeting Summary**

Members Present: Odile Attiglah, Mark Baker, Tomas Cabrera, Rhonda Callaham, Denise Clayborn, Dr. Rosalyn Cousar, Vontrida Custis, Hugo Delgado, Carrie Dolan, Caroline Fuller, Richard Hall, Robert Hewitt, Deirdre Johnson, Martha Lees, Elaine Martin, Nicholas Mattsson, Michael McIntyre, Phillip Quinn, Dr. Joseph Riddick, Ruth Royster, Edward Strickler, Jr.

Members Absent: Heather Bronson, Betty Cochran, Takecia Griffin, Gregory Fordham, Whitney Scott, Paul Searcy, Bruce Taylor

Other Attendees: Ben Alonso, Kathleen Carter, LaShaun Evans, Ami Gandhi, Rachel Rees of the Virginia Department of Health; Dr. Judy Bradford and Jessica Xavier of Virginia Commonwealth University/Community Health Research Initiative; Nathaniel Amos, Steven Hazel, visitors

Total of 30 attendees.

Welcome and Introductions

Elaine Martin, Health Department Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. and introductions were made.

Membership

Elections - Ruth Royster was elected to the Membership Committee and Michael McIntyre was elected as Ryan White Subcommittee Co-Chair.

Old Business

Federal HIV prevention grant – Elaine Martin announced that the full grant will be awarded in April or May. Rescissions may be made at that time (she expects at least a 3% rescission). She reiterated that no RFPs will be released until the full grant is awarded.

New Business

1) *Legislative update* – The following budget amendments have been proposed:

- Item 289 #1h, Patron: BaCote, Co-Patron: Watts - \$250,000 the second year from the general funds shall be used to establish up to four new HIV prevention programs. Funds shall be targeted to individuals under age 25 within health districts where the annual incidence rates exceeds 6.1 cases per 100,000 individuals. The Department shall provide funding based on a competitive process and encourage the use of public private collaborations.
- Item 289 # 3h, Patron: Jones, S.C. - General fund appropriations for the state pharmaceutical assistance program (SPAP) unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall be reappropriated for expenditure for SPAP in the succeeding fiscal year.

- Item 293 #8h, Patron: Brink - Out of this appropriation, \$1,000,000 from the general fund the second year shall be provided to the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health, for grants to HIV treatment providers within Planning District 8. The grants shall be used to expand service capacity to treat individuals with HIV.

2) *OraSure tests* - Elaine Martin announced that VDH received only one day's notice that the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) will no longer process OraSure test kits. There is apparently a shortage of fluid to process the tests and the only company that manufactures the fluid is phasing out production completely. She stated that VDH is working hard to solve the problem and one option is to contract directly with OraSure. Even though the test will now cost \$25 (DCLS charged \$18), VDH originally budgeted for 5,000 test kits and only 3,500 may be needed. Therefore, the increased cost can be absorbed. Elaine feels this is good move as test results from OraSure will be returned within 48 hours. Another option is that phlebotomy training may be given to CBOs for confirmatory testing.

3) *New Testing Guideline* - Dr. Joe Riddick announced that the Department of Juvenile Justice will offer HIV testing to every juvenile entering the state system as soon as details are worked out with DCLS and the protocols are finalized. Testing will be opt-out rather than opt-in.

4) *2007 HIV Prevention Leadership Summit* – Elaine requested that members e-mail Ami Gandhi if they are interested in attending this year's summit in New Orleans on May 20-23; however, she indicated that due to budget rescissions, the CPG may not be able to send two members as it has in the past (along with the community co-chair, the health department co-chair and the community planner). Ami Gandhi and Carrie Dolan have submitted an abstract on population prioritization and are awaiting notification of acceptance. Edward Strickler noted that he has also submitted several abstracts.

5) *New SISTA Component* - Deirdre Johnson announced that Virginia Commonwealth University is working with Virginia State University on a new component to SISTA training called *Bring a Brother to SISTA*. Ms. Johnson will report on the progress to the committee later in the year.

Review of Subpopulation Summary

Elaine Martin explained that because it becomes a major part of the next comprehensive plan, it is vital that the summary reflects what the committee has discussed, what the committee believes, and what the data indicated. Ami Gandhi discussed changes made to the document based on comments that had been received by the group. The group was given time to read the handout once more with the changes made. Discussion followed concerning groups such as under-reported Latino populations and other immigrant populations as well as additional subpopulations. Ms. Gandhi will incorporate the final changes for the comprehensive plan.

Committee Maintenance

Establishing Ground Rules for Discussion and Disagreement – Elaine Martin asked the committee to set some ground rules for keeping balance, extending courtesy to other members during discussions, being punctual, and extending a willingness to share opinions and comments in a professional manner. The committee broke into groups to compile three ways the committee works well together, three ways the committee could be improved, and three ground rules for discussion. Each group presented their ideas and a team building exercise followed.

Next Steps: Selecting Interventions for Priority Populations

The main task of the committee in 2007 is to select the most effective interventions to incorporate into the comprehensive plan. Elaine Martin explained that due to funding cuts, a selective (rather than exhaustive) list needs to be compiled. She cited an article in the *Journal of American Health* which reported the findings of 100 studies conducted in 2000-2004 which identified 18 effective interventions, some of which will be added to the DEBI list. Ami Gandhi presented a list of interventions, including DEBIs and those from the Compendium, for the group to review. Ms. Gandhi also discussed some options for developing a process for selecting interventions. An intervention “menu” will be compiled for the March meeting, at which time a process for selecting interventions will be finalized.

Subcommittees

Standards & Practices

Rachel Rees, quality assurance coordinator at VDH, distributed a proposal for revising intervention standards for HIV prevention. The goal is to create HIV prevention standards guidelines which are relevant and current to ensure the provision of high-quality client-driven prevention services. Ms. Rees referenced a similar format being used in Michigan and explained why she feels it could be adopted by the committee. The revised standards will be incorporated into the comprehensive plan as well as RFP requirements and will be used for site visit quality assurance reviews of CBOs so agencies will know what is expected and how performance will be measured. Ms. Rees asked whether the standards should be revised by a select group of subcommittee members or the entire subcommittee; a vote was taken of six to four in favor of the revisions to be done as an entire subcommittee effort. Ms. Rees and Ami Gandhi will work on revisions one section at a time and will e-mail them out to the entire subcommittee for review. The group then reviewed the revised HIV Counseling and Testing Standards. The changes discussed for this section will be made and emailed to the subcommittee for final review. The standards should be completed by the next subcommittee meeting in May.

Research

The research subcommittee evaluated Carrie Dolan's proposal to utilize this group as collaborators for development of the Epidemiology Profile (Epi Profile). Research funds are not available for FY2007 and the research subcommittee would be a valuable resource to evaluate and contribute to the Epi Profile. Group members determined that this was an appropriate function of the group. Concerns were expressed that group

members may not have the time to critically evaluate large sections of the profile. It was determined that members could decide the level of participation they could commit to the profile. All contributions will be considered important and beneficial to its development. The group will also be responsible for presenting Epi Profile developments to the entire CPG and will meet during lunch at each CPG meeting in 2007. The completed profile will be distributed December 1, 2007.

Call to Action – Success or Failure?

Ami Gandhi thanked the workgroup for their efforts and asked the committee for their comments on whether the effort was a success or failure. Some positive comments were that the paper gave clients the opportunity to address accountability, that the paper was a good starting point and, with time, other populations would endorse it. Some negative comments were that there obstacles in getting agencies to commit, there was a lot of apathy in the community, the effort was difficult to “sell” because VDH did not directly endorse it, and that the timing was bad because of the energies directed toward educating the public about the marriage amendment. Ms. Gandhi then asked the group what they learned about the process, what worked and what did not work. One member noted that the conference calls were not structured well, the purpose was not clearly defined and the calls needed to be more focused. It was also suggested that a better known organization should have been used and people were reluctant to support the document because they did not know how it was going to be used. The group agreed that the next one for the African American community should involve other organizations that are representative of the communities to help write the paper and disseminate the information. One member proposed contacting Julian Bond, national NAACP chairman and Charlottesville resident, as his organization has issued its own call to action. Having a well known spokesperson could generate more interest and involvement. Another proposal was to get the African American caucus leaders in the general assembly involved. Ms. Gandhi concluded by stating that the final evaluation will be shared with them once it has been received from Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS (VORA).

Results from the Transgender Health Initiative Survey

Dr. Judy Bradford and Jessica Xavier distributed copies of the completed transgender study entitled *The Health, Health-Related Needs, and Lifecourse Experiences of Transgender Virginians*. They thanked the CPG for the opportunity to conduct the study and recognized the group’s efforts. Dr. Bradford stated that this was the first initiative of its kind in the United States and reported that a similar study is being planned in Indiana and Ontario, Canada. An important finding was that 82% of participants had been tested for HIV. She stated a major disappointment was the low number of Latinos who participated even though the study was translated into Spanish. They hope that ultimately the findings will help not only provide HIV or STD health care screenings for transgendered individuals but general health screenings as well. A list of recommendations for capacity building for health care and social service providers was provided to VDH and the committee. Elaine reported that an initial guide for physicians and clinicians has been completed and copies will be distributed at the next meeting.

Review of November Meeting Summary

Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written.

Planning for the March Meeting

- 1) Epi Profile workgroup will meet during lunch
- 2) Intervention “menu” will be developed
- 3) Ryan White and STD subcommittees will meet
- 4) Update on Epi Profile by Carrie Dolan
- 5) Introduction of new members
- 6) Presentation by Diana Jordan and Steve Bailey on overview of health care services (SPAP and the Title I and II programs)
- 7) Legislative updates
- 8) Update on OraSure testing

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Elaine Martin, Health Department Co-Chair

Date

Kathleen Carter, Recording Secretary

Date